

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3922

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: GDR COVERAGE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF US-GDR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1. GDR PRESS GAVE PROMINENT FACTUAL COVERAGE TO SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS ON US-GDR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. UNDER FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE "ESTABLISHMENT OF GDR-USA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS," NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) PRINTED FULL TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND GAVE NAMES OF FUTURE AMBASSADORS. INSIDE-PAGE AND STORIES COVERED SIGNING CEREMONY ITSELF, WITH COPIOUS DETAILS, AND SUESS' AFTERNOONPRESS CONFERENCE; BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF AMBASSADOR COOPER ALSO PUBLISHED. AS EXPECTED, COVERAGE DID NOT MENTION BERLIN

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DISCLAIMER MADE BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN OR SUBSEQUENT

DISCUSSION OF CLAIMS ISSUE.

2. AS INDICATION OF "GREAT INTEREST" AROUSED IN WASHINGTON BY ASSUMPTION OF US-GDR RELATIONS, ADN NOTED THAT THREE TIMES AS MANY JOURNALISTS AS USUAL WERE PRESENT AT DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING. LATTER WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING DEVOTED SIMPLY TO DISCUSSION OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF US-GDR RELATIONS. SOMEWHAT MORE DETAIL WAS PROVIDED ON SUESS' PRESS CONFERENCE, INCLUDING SUESS REMARK THAT "GREAT POSSIBILITIES" EXISTED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS IN COMMERCIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS. SUESS WAS ALSO QUOTED AS POINTING OUT THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED TO ENTER INTO EARLY NEGOTIATIONS FOR RECIPROCAL ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULATES.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS ACCORDED DETAILED FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN WEST BERLIN PRESS, WITH EMPHASIS ON BERLIN DISCLAIMER MADE BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN. WEST GERMAN TV COMMENTATORS POINTED OUT IMPORTANCE TO GDR OF OBTAINING US DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION PRIOR TO 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND SAID APPARENT GDR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLAIMS DURING NAZI ERA "ADDED SPECIAL TOUCH TO EXCHANGE." CHANNEL ONE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAID THAT IF EAST GERMANS HOPED FOR AMERICAN LOANS, THEY WOULD HAVE TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL TREATIES, E.G., ON BERLIN TRANSIT TRAFFIC.

4. COMMENT: PROMINENT GDR PRESS COVERAGE UNDERSCORES SIGNIFICANCE GDR ATTACHES TO ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH US, AND ITS SATISFACTION THAT THIS STEP WAS ACCOMPLISHED PRIOR TO CELEBRATION OF GDR'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY.

5. DECONTROL 12/31/74. SELIGMANN

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